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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/809,340

03/26/2004

Takesi Yamakawa

0757-0286PUS1

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08/24/2006

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CUONG H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3661

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/809,340

Applicant(s)

YAMAKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

CUONG H. NGUYEN

Art Unit

3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 9-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is the answer to a communication received on 1/31/2006.
2. Claims 1-11 are pending in this application.

Drawings

3. This application has been filed with formal drawings which are acceptable for examining purposes.

Priority

4. Acknowledgment is made of applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed is Japanese Application# 2003-097320 (date 3/31/2003).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. For initial analysis, all pending independent claims 1, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

There are many existing systems and methods that control period and frequency of behavior for certain subsystem; therefore, these claims should have more explanations/elaboration, *it is vague and unclear in present form*, that is, "Is that clear enough about: a method/system of controlling a behavior of varying period and frequency without telling what system/method for; and how to control that behavior is essential to the claimed invention but not elaborated in these claims.

The applicants claim of detecting a period and a frequency of behaviors of a specific kind – this feature is vague and unclear because there are many existing subsystems having those behaviors.

6. Dependent claims 2-8 are objected because they inherit similar deficiency from their parent claim 1.

The examiner also introduces a restriction requirement in this action since the applicants claim very broad subjects in distinct areas.

Election/Restriction

7. The examiner respectfully submits that the election to one of the following inventions is deemed necessary.

8. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-8 are drawn to a system for regulating a quantity based on a deviation (i.e., controlling a steering device of a ship), classified in US class 114, subclass 144R.

II. Claims 9-11 are drawn to a method/device of controlling/regulating a quantity (a period/a frequency) of a vehicle (this claimed subject matter is not necessarily within an application for a ship; according to what claim, this applies to all vehicles in general – i.e., for automobiles), classified in US class 701, subclass 41.

9. The inventions (group I, and group II) are distinct by above claimed groups, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions Group I, and Group II are related as regulating a quantity on different applications. In this case, (II) confirms that claims 9-11 are directed to a generic way to regulating “a quantity” that “quantity” may be “an inflation rate that is controlled by

Federal Reserve Bank), not particularly "for a ship" of group I.

10. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classifications, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Conclusion

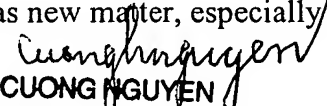
11. Claims 1-11 are not patentable.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CUONG H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-6759. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THOMAS G. BLACK can be reached on 571-272-6956. The Rightfax number for the organization where this application is assigned is 571-273-6759.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Please provide support, with page and line numbers, for any amended or new claim in an effort to help advance prosecution; otherwise any new claim language that is introduced in an amended or new claim may be considered as new matter, especially if the Application is a Jumbo Application.


CUONG NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER